

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected all claims 1-10, 12-19, and 21-31 under 35 U.S.C. 102 for being obvious. Claims 1-10, 12-19, and 21-31 remain in the application.

The various rejections for obviousness were based on several references but in all cases included at least one of US Patents, Hobbs and Hegde. The Examiner did not cite the basis for believing these were proper references. Applicants view is that neither Hobbs nor Hegde are proper references against the present application. Both references share at least one common inventor with the present application, both references were published only after the filing date of the present application, and both references have the same assignee as the present application. Accordingly, Applicants' view is that the Examiner's use of these references in obviousness rejections was improper. Because all of the rejections for obviousness made by the Examiner relied on at least one of these references, none of the Examiner's rejections relied solely on proper references. Thus, Applicants submit that the rejections for obviousness should be withdrawn.

Applicants would also like to inform the Examiner that the Applicants do not have a record of receiving an initialled copy of the IDS form mailed by Applicants on February 5, 2003.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact the below-signed if there are any issues regarding this communication or otherwise concerning the current application.

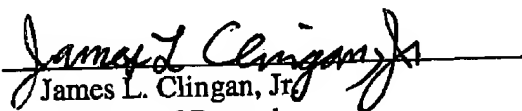
Respectfully submitted,

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